

BEDTIME BOOKS READING GUIDE



an post
**IRISH
BOOK
AWARDS**

children's
books
ireland
every child a reader

INTRODUCTION

The task of gathering a collection of bedtime books for children aged 0–10 is a mammoth one. The bedtime story, whether read aloud or told from memory, is such a special moment in a family, and we feel great privilege in guiding young readers toward some titles that we hope will bring smiles to sleepy faces. In picturebooks, bedtime stories abound – adults will recognise familiar themes as monkeys, bears and babies fight for a few more minutes' play, and night-time anxieties stand in the way of sleep. There are a few upbeat, silly books to get the end-of-day giggles out, and some calm, quiet books to read just before little heads hit the pillow. As book-lovers, we've included some bookish books about reading to encourage young readers on their journey.

As we move through the age groups to older children, we have selected books that will withstand multiple readings and that will draw in adults and children alike. Tales of magic and adventure mingle with realistic stories that can be a starting point for chats about more difficult issues.

International studies show that reading aloud to a child for just fifteen minutes a day has a positive impact on their intelligence, school work, empathy and social skills. Research also shows that a love of reading for pleasure is more important to a child's future than socioeconomic background. As well as the joy of cuddling up for a bedtime story, spending this time on reading can be the greatest enabler of a child's future success. In Ireland, over half of three-year-olds are read to every day. At age five, this figure rises to two-thirds. At age nine, 31% read for fun every day, with a further 41% reading a few times a week; only 6% say they never read for fun. We are a nation of readers, and we hope you find at least one book here to start or continue your reading journey, and hopefully many more.

#READERSWANTED, is a national campaign which celebrates the value and joy of reading and encourages everyone to pick up more books, more often. Books lead us into new worlds and possibilities and challenge and change how people think about the world and about each other. This campaign reminds us of the warmth and wonder of reading with our loved ones. Join the campaign on Twitter (@Postvox), Instagram (@anpostofficial) and Facebook (@AnPost). #READERSWANTED celebrates the values of reading.

Let us know what you think, before you nod off – find Children's Books Ireland on Twitter (@kidsbooksirel), Instagram (@kidsbooksirel) and Facebook (@ChildrensBooksIreland), and visitchildrensbooksireland.ie for many more reviews or to download our free annual *Recommended Reads* guide.

 Denotes an Irish author/illustrator/publisher/údar/maisitheoir/foilsitheoir as Éirinn



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#READERSWANTED



XAVIER DENEUX MY DREAMS: BABY BASICS

TWIRL BOOKS 2016 (BOARD) 20PP £8.99 ISBN 9791027601912

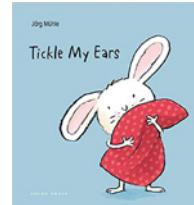
Experts, parents and guardians agree that interactive books featuring high-contrast visuals stimulate baby's brain development, as well as keeping them engaged and entertained. Follow one little boy's whimsical dream as he flies through the air on a magic carpet, climbs up the back of a dinosaur, and even rides on the back of a whale! This book encourages tactile exploration, supports hand-eye coordination, and helps to develop a healthy sense of awareness. With glow-in-the-dark elements to accompany the enchanting illustrations, this beautiful book makes a wonderful gift for newborns! (Age 0–2)



SOPHY HENN BEDTIME WITH TED

BLOOMSBURY CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2017 (BOARD) 10PP £6.99 ISBN 9781408880791

It's Ted's bedtime but he's far too busy splashing with penguins in the bath and brushing his teeth with crocodiles. Join in the fun as Ted is too busy for bedtime – lift the flaps to find out what he is doing next! But all the craziness leads to a quiet and soothing ending, making this the ideal fun bedtime read for toddlers. This stylishly illustrated journey towards bed will delight all young procrastinators and, since Ted does end up in bed, it's a perfect bedtime story for the very young. (Age 0–2)



JÖRG MÜHLE TICKLE MY EARS

GECKO PRESS 2016 (BOARD) 20PP £6.99 ISBN 9781776570768

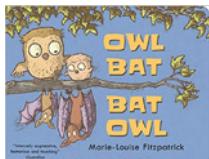
A beautifully illustrated and delightful book which encourages interaction from the reader. It invites toddlers to participate in Little Rabbit's bedtime ritual and then rewards them for their helpfulness. Little Rabbit needs to be put to bed, and the child is encouraged to swap usual roles and settle the rabbit to sleep by fluffing his pillow, tickling his ears, tucking in the blanket etc. Mühle's simple outlined illustrations on clean, pastel-coloured backgrounds have a gentle quality perfectly suited to the bedtime theme. Also available as *gaeilge*, *Codladh Sámh, a Choinín Beag!* (Age 0–2)



CHRIS HAUGHTON GOODNIGHT EVERYONE

WALKER BOOKS 2018 (BOARD) 32PP £12.99 ISBN 9781406381573

Goodnight Everyone follows a wide-awake (for now) little bear through an evening-time woodland where all the animals are getting ready for bed. The pared-down text has a hypnotic quality which rapidly has readers and listeners echoing the protagonists' yawns. The warm and oh-so-clever illustrations are full of visual clues for prereaders to spot and convey an extra layer of gentle humour. The sublime, starry night time scenes and an infectious yawnly 'good night' refrain creates a lulling bedtime read. (Age 0–3)


**MARIE-LOUISE FITZPATRICK
OWL BAT BAT OWL**

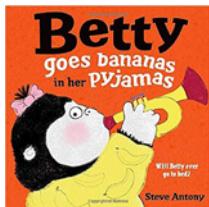
WALKER BOOKS 2017 (BOARD) 32PP £11.99 ISBN 9781406377408

An owl family settles on their perch for the night only to be joined by a family of bats underneath, and it looks like the two groups aren't going to get along – all except the littlest ones, who seem interested and excited about the presence of strangers. This wordless boardbook effortlessly deals with issues of intolerance, difference and friendship using this inspired premise, with plenty of space for parent-child interaction and interpretation. Beautifully illustrated and cleverly put together, this book is a little treasure. (Age 1–3)


**LESLIE PATRICELLI
BIG KID BED**

WALKER BOOKS 2019 (BOARD) 26PP £5.99 ISBN 9781406384994

This simple book highlights a milestone in young children's lives. Goodbye, crib. Hello, bed! Baby is happy to move on to the next phase of sleep furniture. There's so much to do on a big, soft bed – lie on it, play on it, bounce on it! At bedtime, daddy tucks baby in, mummy says good night, and there's so much space, and the bed feels so ... different. What now? Trepidation gives way to a good night's sleep in a celebration of a familiar toddler ritual. (Age 1–3)


**STEVE ANTONY
BETTY GOES BANANAS IN HER PYJAMAS**

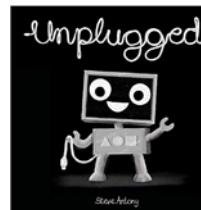
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS 2016 (PBK) 32PP £6.99 ISBN 9780192738196

Boisterous Betty is back and this time she's throwing a bedtime tantrum. No matter how much the parental Mr Toucan tries to convince her to cuddle up in bed, stubborn Betty insists on playing with her colourful collection of toys. An ideal read aloud with melodramatic sound effects as Betty lets loose! Facial expressions are also particularly engaging, from Mr Toucan's frustration to Betty's glee. The bright, bold colours and soft pencil drawings add to the overall fun and accessibility. Guaranteed giggles. (Age 1–4)


**JEZ ALBOROUGH
PLAY**

WALKER BOOKS 2018 (PBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9781406380071

From the award-winning creator of *Hug*, *Tall* and *Yes* comes another classic picturebook for the very youngest children. Using only a handful of words, Jez Alborough skilfully tells the bedtime tale of Bobo the chimp. The sun is still up and this little chimp wants to play with his jungle friends, but then the sun goes down and he's all alone ... This is a simple story about bravery and home. The perfect bedtime read for every playful little monkey! (Age 1–5)


**STEVE ANTONY
UNPLUGGED**

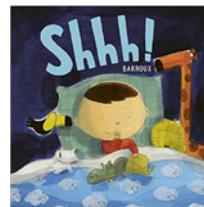
HODDER CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2018 (PBK) 32PP £6.99 ISBN 9781444934168

Robot Blip enjoys her virtual life, forever plugged in to her computer. But one day, following a power cut, she stumbles outside for the first time and discovers that a whole world of friendship, freedom and adventure awaits her. Antony cleverly uses colour to contrast the dull virtual world with the vibrant reality of nature and play. The great variety in the activities and expressions of the characters adds extra liveliness. This simple story is perfect for families trying to strike the right balance between screen time and bedtime stories! (Age 1–5)


**AMY HEST illustrated by HELEN OXENBURY
CHARLEY'S FIRST NIGHT**

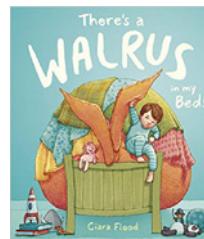
WALKER BOOKS 2013 (PBK) 32PP £6.99 ISBN 9781406345315

This story tells of the beginning of a close bond of friendship between Henry and his new pet dog, Charley. On Charley's first night, Henry carries his new puppy in his old baby blanket, all the way to his house. Henry's parents make it very clear where Charley will be sleeping: in the kitchen. But when Charley starts crying in the middle of the night ... Henry simply can't leave his puppy down there by himself! Told with warmth, humour and endearing simplicity, a tale familiar to everyone who has loved a puppy. (Age 2–3)


**BARROUX
SHHH!**

WORDS & PICTURES 2018 (HBK) 32PP £11.99 ISBN 9781910277782

This wonderful bedtime story takes you on a journey through a child's imagination to a series of dreamy landscapes where animals ready themselves for sleep. The simple, lyrical text and charming illustrations will gently lull even the most reluctant sleeper, providing a calming way for parents and carers to say goodnight. Listen to the world gently slowing down, then stopping. With gently humorous text and enchanting imagery that will soothe both little ones and their adults, this bedtime story will quickly become a family favourite. (Age 2–4)


**CIARA FLOOD
THERE'S A WALRUS IN MY BED!**

ANDERSEN PRESS 2018 (PBK) 32PP £6.99 ISBN 9781783445875

Tonight, for the first time, Flynn is going to sleep in a proper big boy bed. Flynn has a big problem and it's not that he can't sleep. No, there is a walrus in his new bed! Flynn tries everything he can think of to accommodate his new friend. Eventually, Flynn gets a good night's sleep. Although this story covers territory familiar to many parents of young children, Ciara Flood's humorous interpretation of bedtime protests will no doubt be a new favourite. The lovely illustrations bring the story to life, particularly the cuddly visiting walrus. (Age 2–4)


**JOHY JORY illustrated by BENJI DAVIES
GOODNIGHT ALREADY!**

HARPERCOLLINS CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2015 (PBK) 32PP £6.99 ISBN 9780008101350

Meet Bear. He's exhausted. All he wants is to go to sleep. Meet Duck, Bear's persistent next-door neighbour. All he wants is to hang out ... with Bear! And so begins a series of repeated interruptions from Duck to try and engage his friend in some irritating form of play be it 'talk all night', 'make smoothies' or 'start a band'. With each visit, Bear becomes increasingly aggravated until it all gets too much. A brilliant read aloud book. Highly recommended for those with siblings! (Age 2–4)


**MARY MURPHY
GOOD NIGHT LIKE THIS**

WALKER BOOKS 2016 (PBK) 32PP £6.99 ISBN 9781406365887

Filled with dreamy, colourful art, this is the perfect soothing bedtime book for little children. The rhythmic text is just right for gently lulling them to sleep while cuddly rabbits, bears, dogs, and even a dragonfly each take turns tucking in their little ones. The gentle pacing and sweet pictures will be sure to elicit lots of oohs, aahs, and ... zzzzzs! Featuring novelty elements such as cut-away pages and foil effects, this is a cosy and delightful bedtime book for parents and children to share. This calm and cuddly bedtime read is a must for any bedtime routine. (Age 2–4)


**ELLIE SANDALL
EVERYBUNNY DREAM!**

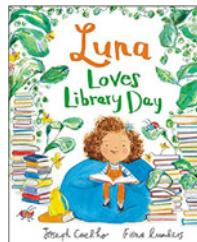
HODDER CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2019 (PBK) 32PP £6.99 ISBN 9781444933871

Drift off to sleep with this calming bedtime tale, perfect for sharing together. 'Cuddle up and snuggle tight. Close your eyes and say goodnight. A cosy group. A peaceful scene ... Everybunny dream!' Follow the little bunnies as they settle down to sleep in this adorable bedtime routine picturebook. Putting their pyjamas on, brushing their tails, washing their paws ... then cuddling up for a bedtime story together. Just right for tired little bunnies everywhere. (Age 2–4)


**MARTA ALTÉS
FIVE MORE MINUTES**

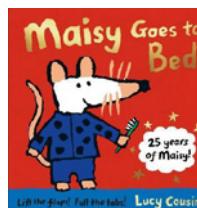
MACMILLAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2019 (HBK) 32PP £12.99 ISBN 9781509866021

Did you ever notice that parents treat time very differently from kids? How come five minutes in the morning seems to go by quickly when you want to sleep, but it's a very long time if you leave the kids unattended in the kitchen? This book is a joyous romp through a day with dad and the kids, as our child narrator ponders the vagaries and nuances of perceiving time. Parents and children will find humour and laughs on every page – very relatable! (Age 2–5)


**JOSEPH COELHO illustrated by FIONA LUMBERS
LUNA LOVES LIBRARY DAY**

ANDERSEN PRESS 2018 (PBK) 32PP £6.99 ISBN 9781783445950

This is a touching reflection on the power of reading to bring families together. Luna loves going to the library, especially because she gets to spend time with things she loves – books and her dad. Together they explore curiosities, mysteries and knowledge and they even read a very special tale (a book within the book!) that relates to their own life. *Luna Loves Library Day* is an affectionate, loving and gentle story that approaches the subject of separated/divorced parents, brilliantly accompanied by spot-on heartwarming illustrations, ensuring that, no matter what, children will feel loved. (Age 2–5)


**LUCY COUSINS
MAISY GOES TO BED**

WALKER BOOKS 2016 (HBK) 16PP £7.99 ISBN 9781406371529

Help Maisy get ready for bed in this charming and original children's book by the multi-award-winning Lucy Cousins that was first published by Walker Books twenty-five years ago. Lift the flaps and pull the tabs, it's time for Maisy to go to bed! First she drinks her bedtime drink, then she has to brush her teeth, wash her hands, put on her pyjamas and read her book. There's lots to do. This reassuringly familiar character will be recognisable to most young children. (Age 2–5)


**MICHAEL ROSEN illustrated by CHRIS RIDDELL
A GREAT BIG CUDDLE:
POEMS FOR THE VERY YOUNG**

WALKER BOOKS 2017 (PBK) 80PP £10.99 ISBN 9781406373462

The poems in *A Great Big Cuddle* fizz off the page with sound and rhythm, energy and laughter, as Rosen captures in the most remarkable way what it means to be very, very young. A child's world with all its details and feelings – toys and games, animals and made-up creatures, likes and dislikes – is vividly conjured up in the most memorable, playful language, and Chris Riddell has produced some extraordinary pictures. It's a book that will be enjoyed by the oldest grown-up and the youngest child – and a future classic. (Age 2–7)


**MO WILLEMS
DON'T LET THE PIGEON STAY UP LATE!**

WALKER BOOKS 2007 (PBK) 40PP £6.99 ISBN 9781406308129

In this hilarious, interactive bedtime read, it's getting late and the bus driver is going to brush his teeth and get ready for bed. Will you do him a favour while he is gone? Don't let the pigeon stay up late! But the pigeon is wide awake: he isn't even tired – in fact he's in the mood for a hot-dog party!

The increasingly desperate reasons the pigeon gives for staying up late will really resonate with young (and older) children. A hilarious read aloud story for bedtime, featuring everyone's favourite pesky, pestering pigeon! (Age 2–5)



OLIVER JEFFERS and SAM WINSTON

A CHILD OF BOOKS

WALKER BOOKS 2019 (PBK) 40PP £7.99 ISBN 9781406386042

A coming together of two very different styles, this picturebook beautifully combines Jeffers's sweeping watercolours and naive pencil-drawn characters with Winston's typographic and collaged landscapes. The narrative follows a young girl who guides a boy and the reader away from the grey everyday and into a world of story. Words become mountains, oceans, paths and caves, and colour slowly creeps into the scenery and the girl's figure as the book progresses. A beautiful gift for a book lover of any age. A gorgeous homage to the power of the written word. (Age 3+)

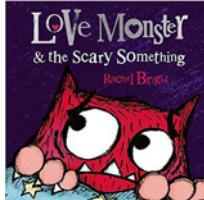


ELLA BAILEY

ONE DAY ON OUR BLUE PLANET... IN THE SAVANNAH

FLYING EYE BOOKS 2019 (PBK) 32PP £6.99 ISBN 9781909263567

You'll follow a day in the life of a sweet lion cub as he explores his world. At every turn of the page, the reader is introduced to a variety of savannah animals and lush vegetation that is a veritable feast for the eyes. Bailey's text is simple and filled with snippets of facts and curiosities and it's well complemented by her beautiful illustrations in warm tones. The endpapers alone are such a treat! It's a real delight for curious little explorers. (Age 3-5)



RACHEL BRIGHT

LOVE MONSTER & THE SCARY SOMETHING

HARPERCOLLINS CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2015 (PBK) 32PP £6.99 ISBN 9780007540327

It's way past bedtime o'clock in Cutesville and Love Monster is the only one who's wide awake ... Or is he? As the sounds of the night make his imagination run wild ... will he be brave enough to stare his fears straight in the googly eye? A heart-poppingly empowering, edge-of-the-bed story, about how, sometimes, it's only when we face our fears that we find out there was nothing to be scared of after all. A sweetly inspiring story aimed at encouraging little readers to take positive action. (Age 3-5)



EMMA CHICHESTER CLARK

BEARS DON'T READ!

HARPERCOLLINS CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2014 (PBK) 32PP £6.99 ISBN 9780007425198

George the bear is tired of doing the same old bear things. He's looking for excitement. So when he finds a book in the woods he decides to find its owner and learn to read! Ignoring his family's warning of the dangers of town, George boldly ventures forth and, despite a somewhat mixed reception, manages to make new friends and fulfil his dreams. This amusing and colourful tale reveals the wonders that can lie beyond the familiar, if you're brave enough to look! An encouraging story for those starting on their own reading journeys. (Age 3-5)



PIPPA GOODHART illustrated by REBECCA CRANE

MY VERY OWN SPACE

FLYING EYE BOOKS 2017 (HBK) 32PP £11.99 ISBN 9781911171126

A little rabbit is trying to read his book in peace, but there's so much going on around him! Maybe he needs some space just for himself ... It can be hard to find room for yourself in a busy, crowded home so little rabbit decides to mark out a space that's just for one. But being on your own all the time isn't that fun ... This beautifully illustrated book is perfect for children testing the boundaries of personal space and social interaction, with a great message about when to let people in and when it's OK to have your own space. (Age 3-5)



LOUISE GREIG illustrated by ASHLING LINDSAY

BETWEEN TICK AND TOCK

EGMONT BOOKS 2018 (PBK) 32PP £6.99 ISBN 9781405286596

A gentle story highlighting how things can happen in the second between the tick and tock when the clock is paused and everything stands still. Follow Liesel's journey through the hectic city full of distracted people as she carries out random acts of kindness and shows consideration for others. The warm, atmospheric illustrations add to the story as Liesel returns colour, life and happiness to the city. A thoughtful tale that acts as a reminder to readers to slow down and be more aware. (Age 3-5)

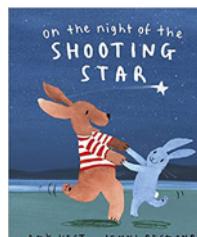


EMILY HAWORTH-BOOTH

THE KING WHO BANNED THE DARK

PAVILION CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2018 (PBK) 32PP £6.99 ISBN 9781843653974

There was a prince who was afraid of the dark, and when he becomes king, he decides to do something. He bans the dark, spreading rumours about its evils and enforcing 'anti-dark' laws. Everyone is happy with the constant light at first. Then his people can't sleep, the days seem to go on forever and no one can see the celebration fireworks! Will the king face his fears and turn off the lights? A timeless tale of courage, consequences and unexpected wonder with quirky, lively illustrations. An illuminating tale of power, rebellion, darkness and light. (Age 3-5)



AMY HEST illustrated by JENNI DESMOND

ON THE NIGHT OF THE SHOOTING STAR

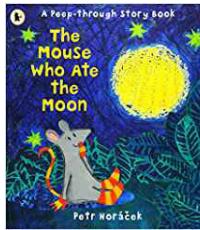
WALKER BOOKS 2018 (PBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9781406379372

Bunny lives on one side of the fence in a small blue house. Dog lives on the other side of the fence in a small red house. Although they are neighbours, they are not friends. But what happens on a night when neither can sleep? This is a gentle story of a developing friendship which any shy child can appreciate. Jenni Desmond's lovely watercolour illustrations bring life to the characters and create the beautiful world of Dog and Bunny through all four seasons. (Age 3-5)


**DAISY HIRST
I DO NOT LIKE BOOKS ANYMORE!**

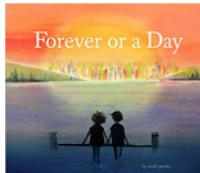
WALKER BOOKS 2019 (PBK) 40PP £7.99 ISBN 9781406382914

Natalie and Alphonse are back in Daisy Hirst's new picturebook, and this time Natalie is struggling with her reading. Finding that the words in her storybooks look scrambled and wrong on the page, Natalie declares that she does not like books anymore. The struggles of learning to read and wanting proper stories are captured very well in this book, and Hirst's charming, naïve style is perfectly suited to the subject matter. An excellent book for struggling readers and picturebook lovers alike. (Age 3–5)


**PETR HORÁČEK
THE MOUSE WHO ATE THE MOON**

WALKER BOOKS 2015 (HBK) 32PP £9.99 ISBN 9781406360677

From an award-winning picturebook maker comes a beautiful peep-through story book about a mouse, the moon and the importance of friendship. Little Mouse loves the moon so much that she wants a piece of it for herself. Seeing something yellow, she mistakes it for the moon and nibbles away at it. Afterwards she worries that the moon will not be round any more, but her friends Rabbit and Mole try to reassure her. Simple text, bright, colourful illustrations and peep-through stylised pages make this an ideal gift for a young child. (Age 3–5)


**SARAH JACOBY
FOREVER OR A DAY**

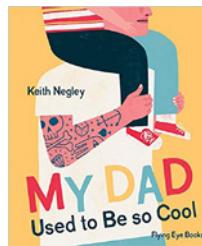
CHRONICLE BOOKS 2018 (HBK) 40PP £12.99 ISBN 9781452164632

This gorgeously illustrated, poetic picturebook deals with the concept of time through the eyes of a child. What is it? Why can't you hold on to it? Where does it go to? Jacoby's sensitive, atmospheric illustrations draw you in, exploring these questions against a world of constantly changing beauty: vast night skies peppered with stars, sunsets, dense forests, smoky cities, rushing crowds and crowded train journeys. Is this what forever feels like? This stunning book full of grace and originality, makes for a great one-on-one bedtime read. (Age 3–5)


**TIMOTHY KNAPMAN illustrated by HELEN OXENBURY
TIME NOW TO DREAM**

WALKER BOOKS 2018 (PBK) 40PP £7.99 ISBN 9781406373370

This lyrical tale finds Jack and his sister, Alice, searching for something hidden in the forest. Perfectly paced, including a beautiful variation of 'Hush Little Baby', this story feels completely timeless. Helen Oxenbury has created a truly immersive experience with her lush, dreamlike watercolour illustrations. It is impossible to resist being drawn into her world. With its reassuring refrain of 'everything is going to be alright' punctuating almost every page, this future classic is note-perfect for sending little ones happily off to sleep. (Age 3–5)


**KEITH NEGLEY
MY DAD USED TO BE SO COOL**

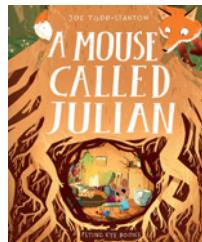
FLYING EYE BOOKS (HBK) 44PP £11.99 ISBN 9781909263949

This story follows a young son's discovery that his dad used to be a rockstar. He finds it hard to believe his dad could have ever been cool. He wonders what little bump along the way made him give it all up ... Negley uses a limited bold colour palette with little shading to create a very graphic effect. The distinct style uses unique proportions and geometric shaping to create a modern look. This is a great book for boys and especially for fatherly bonding. Look out for his other title, *Tough Guys Have Feelings Too*. (Age 3–5)


**LANE SMITH
A PERFECT DAY**

TWO HOOTS 2017 (PBK) 32PP £6.99 ISBN 9781509840564

What would your perfect day be like? That's the question sure to come up after reading this beautifully designed book by veteran American illustrator Lane Smith. Four small animals each seem to be enjoying their perfect summer day until an oversized visitor makes it truly a day to remember. The classy illustration, a mix of ink, paint and digital composition, is typically original work from Smith. The textured surfaces cleverly suggest fur and movement. Fantastic art! The bear is particularly priceless. (Age 3–5)


**JOE TODD-STANTON
A MOUSE CALLED JULIAN**

FLYING EYE BOOKS 2019 (HBK) 40PP £11.99 ISBN 9781912497065

This absolutely adorable book tells the story of friendship between two unlikely and funny characters. Julian, a mouse, lives alone and likes it. Then one day, Fox gets his head stuck in Julian's front door. Since they can't get Fox loose, mouse and fox share a meal and end up enjoying each other's company. They are at first wary, but this bit of bonding over dinner benefits them both later in unexpected ways. Executed in a rich autumnal palette, the accomplished illustrations are as warm as the message. (Age 3–5)


**ED VERE
HOW TO BE A LION**

PUFFIN 2018 (PBK) 32PP £6.99 ISBN 9780141376363

Leonard is aware that everyone expects lions to be fierce, but he is not. He likes words, he likes to write poems and, to the horror of the 'fierce' lions, he befriends a duck called Marianne rather than chomping her up! Several issues are dealt with in this book, including the power of friendship and the need for us all to be ourselves regardless of what others think. A warm and reassuring story beautifully and appropriately illustrated in a palette of burnt oranges and yellows. (Age 3–5)


ED VERE
MAX AT NIGHT

PUFFIN 2015 (PBK) 32PP £6.99 ISBN 9780723299158

This is Max, he is a mighty kitten but tonight, he is very sleepy. It's way past Max's bedtime. Max has drunk his milk. Max has brushed his teeth. Max has cleaned behind his ears. Now Max just needs to say goodnight ... Max is tired and all ready for bed, but when he can't find the moon to say goodnight to, he sets out to find it. But that's not as easy as Max had hoped ... Witty and heartwarming, this stylish and beautifully illustrated book is the perfect bedtime read. (Age 3–5)


JEANNE WILLIS illustrated by **BRIONY MAY SMITH**
STARDUST

NOSY CROW 2018 (PBK) 32PP £6.99 ISBN 9781788000697

A little girl dreams of being a star but she feels her sister will always outshine her. Then grandad explains that the world began with the first star and so we are all made of stardust. His depiction of the beginning of creation in all its mystery is strikingly captured in a series of double-page spreads, contrasting delightfully with grounded images of the family's activities. And little sister realises that she too can and does shine in her own particular way. A warm-hearted story with a reminder that our grandparents are a great source of comfort in times of woe. (Age 3–5)


PATRICIA HEGARTY illustrated by **BRITTA TECKENTRUP**
MOON

LITTLE TIGER PRESS 2018 (PBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9781848698673

This is an elaborate book with peek-through holes that show the moon's different phases with each turn of the page. Over deserts and forests, Arctic tundra and tropical beaches, the moon shines down on creatures around the world. Children will love discovering how it changes from day to day as the lunar cycle is shown through clever peek-through holes, each revealing the moon in a different size and shape. It's the perfect light non-fiction book for young stargazers – and an ideal bedtime book, ending with a giant moon hovering over a sleepy town. (Age 3–6)


OLIVER JEFFERS
**HERE WE ARE:
 NOTES FOR LIVING ON PLANET EARTH**

HARPERCOLLINS CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2017 (HBK) 48PP £14.99 ISBN 9780008266165

Our world can be a bewildering place, especially if you've only just got here. Your head will be filled with questions, so let's explore what makes our planet and how we live on it. From land and sky, to people and time, these notes can be your guide and start you on your journey. And you'll figure lots of things out for yourself. Just remember to leave notes for everyone else ... Some things about our planet are pretty complicated, but things can be simple, too: you've just got to be kind. Also available as gaeilge, *Anseo Atá Muid: Notáí Faoi Chónaí ar an Domhan*. (Age 3–6)


ANNA MILFOURNE illustrated by **DANIEL RIELEY**
I'M NOT (VERY) AFRAID OF THE DARK

USBORNE PUBLISHING 2019 (HBK) 24PP £12.99 ISBN 9781474940726

A comforting companion to any young reader who shares the protagonist's fear of the dark. When the lights go out, he gets a funny feeling in his tummy, paralysed with fear about the freaky shapes he can see. However, when he realises that the darkness isn't as scary as it seems, and that without it the stars wouldn't shine, the dark doesn't seem so bad after all. With astonishing illustrations and perfectly placed cut-out details, this is the perfect bedtime read! (Age 3–6)


MAC BARNETT illustrated by **ISABELLE ARSENAULT**
JUST BECAUSE

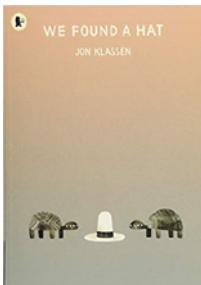
WALKER BOOKS 2019 (HBK) 40PP £12.99 ISBN 9781406388763

It might be time for bed, but one child is too full of questions about the world to go to sleep just yet. Little ones and their parents or guardians will be charmed and delighted as a patient father offers up increasingly creative responses to his child's night-time wonderings. Any child who has ever asked Why? – and any adult who has attempted an explanation – will recognise themselves in this sweet storybook for dreamers who are looking for answers beyond 'Just because'. Celebrating creativity and the general oddness of the world, this is a book to cherish. (Age 3–7)


ISABEL MINHÓS MARTINS illustrated by **YARA KONO**
ABZZZ ... A BEDTIME ALPHABET

THAMES & HUDSON 2016 (HBK) 28PP £8.95 ISBN 9780500650776

As is to be expected from the brilliant Minhós Martins, this book is genius. From 'A is for awake' to 'ZZZZZZZ' this sound means that the book has been turned off, this unusual alphabet book is a light-footed introduction to bedtime relaxation and mindfulness. Suffused with humour and helped along by Kono's bright, bold illustrations, ABZZZ offers a fantastic moment of intimacy and fun between reader and young listener and is a wonderful way to end a busy day. Very highly recommended. (Age 3–7)


JON KLASSEN
WE FOUND A HAT

WALKER BOOKS 2017 (PBK) 56PP £6.99 ISBN 9781406373820

Jon Klassen's quietly epic hat trilogy concludes with this title in poignant fashion. Two tortoises find one very fine hat, but only one turtle may wear it. It is hard, the hat looks good on both of them. This seemingly simple yet understandably serious drama is played out in three acts, including a sleepless night. Clearly, a great friendship is at stake and the full weight of one tortoise's decision can be felt. Exquisitely atmospheric landscapes evoking hilarity and sympathy, the shifting eyes tell the tale full of deadpan humour and charm. (Age 3–7)



**SARAH WEBB illustrated by STEVE MCCARTHY
A SAILOR WENT TO SEA, SEA, SEA: FAVOURITE
RHYMES FROM A IRISH CHILDHOOD**

THE O'BRIEN PRESS 2017 (HBK) 64PP €16.99 ISBN 9781847177940

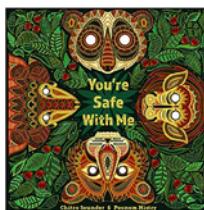
This incredible collection is the perfect companion to the 2014 book *Sally Go Round the Stars*. Even more traditional childhood rhymes, songs and poems are joined by the likes of Yeats, Joyce and even some contemporary children's authors to make a truly memorable, must-have book. The illustrations are bright and lively, setting the mood on each page. Here you will find 'The Owl and the Pussy-Cat', 'Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear' and, yes, 'The Lake Isle of Innisfree'. Perfect to read and to share. (Age 3–10)



**CLARE HELEN WELSH illustrated by ASHLING LINDSAY
THE TIDE**

LITTLE TIGER PRESS 2019 (HBK) 32PP £11.99 ISBN 9781788810852

Warmly illustrated, this book charts a busy day at the beach for a little girl and her grandad while her interior monologue mulls over her discussions with her mum about her grandad's forgetfulness. The metaphor of the tide to explain the effect dementia has on people's memories is beautiful. Images and text wash in and out of the child's present experience and recent memories, and beautiful colours and shapes combine with an accessible and unsentimental text to create a cleverly comforting, coherent reflection on living and loving with dementia. (Age 4–7)



**CHITRA SOUNDAR illustrated by POONAM MISTRY
YOU'RE SAFE WITH ME**

LANTANA PUBLISHING 2018 (HBK) 32PP £11.99 ISBN 9781911373292

You're Safe with Me is a gentle, reassuring book for small people who might be afraid of the dark. We are brought to the forest and there we see a kindly elephant soothe the worries of the baby animals. The wind, the thunder and the lightning are explained away through story, and the babies are finally able to settle down for the night. The illustrations are a triumph. With a dark and opulent palette, they give an air of great mystery to this sumptuous book. (Age 4–8)



**THE FAN BROTHERS
OCEAN MEETS SKY**

LINCOLN CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2019 (PBK) 48PP £7.99 ISBN 9781786035622

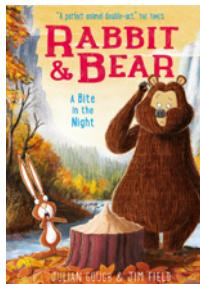
Finn builds a boat to go and explore the magical places his late grandfather had described. He takes the reader with him on a journey through dreams, memories and imagination. The text is quite short and very poetic. The illustrations truly are stunning; they live up to the magic evoked. Each page will fill your eyes with wonder and suggest many more questions to explore. Children and adults alike are sure to be charmed. (Age 4–8)



**THE FAN BROTHERS
THE NIGHT GARDENER**

FRANCES LINCOLN CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2018 (PBK) 48PP £7.99 ISBN 9781786030412

In this beautiful and atmospheric tale about finding your path, the Fan Brothers have created something timeless. When a mysterious night-time gardener begins leaving animal-themed topiary all over town, a young orphaned boy finds a friend, a community and a vocation. Pages move from gentle sepia tones to rich colour drenched spreads as gardening fever overtakes the village. The illustrations are intricate and nostalgic. With themes of resilience and growth, the healing process and movement from isolation to diverse community, this book is an absolute delight. (Age 4–8)



**JULIAN GOUGH illustrated by JIM FIELD
RABBIT & BEAR: A BITE IN THE NIGHT**

HODDER CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2019 (HBK) 112PP £9.99 ISBN 9781444938180

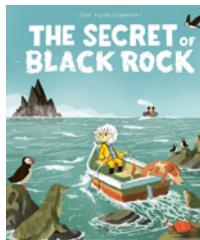
This is the sort of story that makes you want to send your children to bed early, so you can read it to them! Fewer forest-dwelling duos delight more than Rabbit and Bear, and our fourth visit to their valley is no exception. As Rabbit frets over trees 'flying south for winter', Bear assures him trees can't fly, a new creature appears, and he's trying to change everything. Their furry community's journey toward a solution puts team work at the heart of this beautifully illustrated tale but what makes it beat is the joy of friendship. (Age 5–7)



**SEAN TAYLOR and ALEX MORSS illustrated by CINYEE CHIU
WINTER SLEEP: A HIBERNATION STORY**

WORDS & PICTURES 2019 (HBK) 32PP £12.99 ISBN 9780711242838

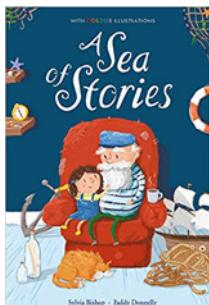
A young boy spends summer taking nature walks with his grandmother. As they explore, she teaches him about the life all around them. When the boy returns in winter the ground is hard, the air is quiet and the trees are bare. During this second trip, the boy learns that the animals are hibernating – passing the winter in a secret and hidden state. A beautiful and educational book that captures what can be learned when we spend time curiously exploring and observing our natural world. (Age 5–7)



**JOE TODD-STANTON
THE SECRET OF BLACK ROCK**

FLYING EYE BOOKS 2018 (PBK) 40PP £6.99 ISBN 9781911171744

The Secret of Black Rock is an adventurous story about a girl who loves the sea and wants to discover more about the intriguing Black Rock. This beautifully illustrated book is a mix of graphic novel and picturebook, touching on subjects such as defiance, courage and friendship, but underneath the surface, like Black Rock itself, it holds a gentle environmental message. The colour palette is stunning and the images from under the sea are dream-like. It's a magical read. (Age 5–7)


SYLVIA BISHOP illustrated by PADDY DONNELLY
A SEA OF STORIES

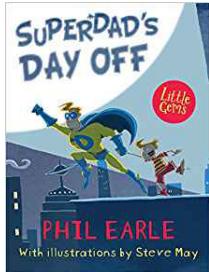
STRIPES 2019 (HBK) 96PP £7.99 ISBN 9781788950817

Our heroine, Roo, hears stories from her grandpa about all the bits and bobs that fill his house by the sea. He tells her stories of his childhood, of the sea and of her grandmother, but he can no longer reach the cove where so many of these memories were made. Can Roo find a way to help her grandpa? The enchanting illustrations do full justice to this lovely tale, told with sweetness and gentle humour. An inspiring tale about the importance of sharing stories, this full colour chapter book is one to treasure. (Age 5–8)


EOIN COLFER illustrated by KATY HALFORD
MARIELLA QUEEN OF THE SKIES

BARRINGTON STOKE 2018 (PBK) 96PP £6.99 ISBN 9781781127704

'Bedtime. No more!' Such is inventor Mariella's war cry in Eoin Colfer's contribution to the brilliant dyslexia-friendly Little Gems collection. As all creatives know, sleep often gets in the way of good inventing. So Mariella has decided to put an end to it. Can she do it? Mariella is full of confidence and bright ideas and never gives up when her hypotheses are invalidated. Whimsical, empowering and packed with Colfer's trademark humour, Mariella's scientific adventure is brilliantly brought to life by Halford's eye for colour and pattern. (Age 5–8)


PHIL EARLE illustrated by STEVE MAY
SUPERDAD'S DAY OFF

BARRINGTON STOKE 2017 (PBK) 94PP £6.99 ISBN 9781781126844

Stanley's dad is a superhero, the greatest on the planet. But saving the world every day is so tiring he can hardly keep his eyes open! On his day off they head to the park, where Stanley is determined to let his dad rest. While his dad snoozes Stanley takes over, bravely battling with panthers, monster trucks and flooded houses, emerging as a hero in his own right. This book from dyslexia-friendly publisher Barrington Stoke, is packed with action and the illustrations are gorgeous – quirky, funny, dynamic and full of character. A wonderful, enjoyable romp. (Age 5–8)


CORNELIA FUNKE illustrated by MÓNICA ARMIÑO
THE MOONSHINE DRAGON

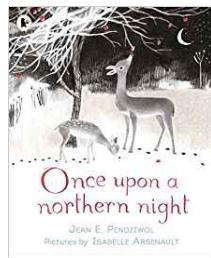
BARRINGTON STOKE 2014 (PBK) 91PP £5.99 ISBN 9781781123539

When a tiny silver dragon is chased out of Patrick's storybook by an equally tiny knight, all sorts of mayhem breaks loose! This dyslexia-friendly book has high-quality cream paper, an easily readable font and attractive greyscale illustrations. This story is a take on the age-old theme of what can happen when stories escape from books, in this case under the influence of 'moonshine magic'. The description of a little dragon emerging from the pages of a book is enchanting and will linger long after details of the ensuing adventure, between the book's owner, Patrick, and a dragon-hunting knight, fade. (Age 5–8)


MICHELLE ROBINSON illustrated by DAVID ROBERTS
A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO BEAR SPOTTING

BLOOMSBURY CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2017 (PBK) 32PP £6.99 ISBN 9781408845561

Bear spotting is a dangerous business – you ought to take it seriously, you know. This is a quirky and original take on guides or tales of instruction and is a wonderfully witty and subversive treat for all. Roberts's illustrations are finely drawn and detailed, the perfect companion to Robinson's text. An unnamed child wraps up and sets off for bear country, with a helpful narrator guiding him or her through – sort of! The result is a stylish, highly entertaining picturebook. Perfect for reading aloud, with plenty of laughs for bedtime, and a very cautionary ending. (Age 5–8)


JEAN E. PENDZIWOL illustrated by ISABELLE ARSENAULT
ONCE UPON A NORTHERN NIGHT

WALKER BOOKS 2016 (PBK) 36PP £6.99 ISBN 9781406366006

Once Upon a Northern Night narrates, with parental affection, a hushed lullaby to a sleeping child. The poetic and lyrical language celebrates the wonder and beauty of the wintry rural landscape and the wild animals which inhabit it. The snowy scenery is gorgeously sketched in predominantly black and white, but gentle hints of colour add to the magic. The muted tones and soft edges create a soothing, peaceful atmosphere. An enchanting and comforting bedtime read which will no doubt appeal to all ages. A mixture of magic, wildlife and deep comfort. Simply stunning! (Age 5–9)


PAULA HARRISON illustrated by JENNY LØVHLIE
KITTY AND THE MOONLIGHT RESCUE

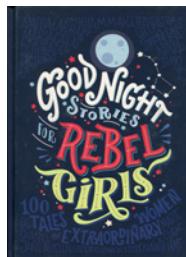
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS 2019 (PBK) 128PP £5.99 ISBN 9780192771650

Join Kitty and her cat crew on the rooftops for a series of enchanting adventures by the light of the moon. This book has the reader tag along with Kitty and her new cat-pals as she becomes a somewhat unwilling superhero. The story has a good pace to keep readers interested in what happens next. The chapter layout means it can be spaced out over a few bedtimes or all in one go for maximum impact! The illustrations set the mood of the night-time adventure and bring the reader along for the ride. (Age 6–10)


SHANE HEGARTY illustrated by BEN MANTLE
BOOT: SMALL ROBOT BIG ADVENTURE

HODDER CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2019 (PBK) 240PP £6.99 ISBN 9781444949360

A small robot called Boot awakens in a scrapyard with no idea how he got there. He only has a few memories: he knows Beth is his owner and he was loved and this gives him the courage to try and find his way home. It's a beautiful story accompanied throughout by impressive illustrations that together capture your heart. The beginning of a great new series from Irish author Shane Hegarty. This is an unforgettable, warm-hearted tale of resilience and hope. (Age 7–9)


**ELENA FAVILLI and FRANCESCA CAVALLO
GOOD NIGHT STORIES FOR REBEL GIRLS**

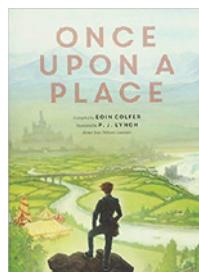
PARTICULAR BOOKS 2017 (HBK) 224PP £20.00 ISBN 9780120420476

What if the princess didn't marry Prince Charming but instead went on to be an astronaut? What if the jealous stepsisters were supportive and kind? And what if the queen was the one really in charge of the kingdom? Illustrated by sixty female artists from every corner of the globe, *Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls* introduces us to one hundred remarkable women and their extraordinary lives. Empowering, moving and inspirational, these are true fairy tales told in 'once upon a time' bedtime story style, for heroines who definitely *don't* need rescuing. (Age 7–10)


**CHRIS WORMELL
THE MAGIC PLACE**

DAVID FICKLING BOOKS 2019 (HBK) 290PP £11.99 ISBN 9781788450157

Clementine spends her days cooking and cleaning for her cruel aunt and uncle and her nights dreaming of escaping to the Magic Place. With the help of Gilbert, her very clever cat, Clementine makes a daring escape, finding friendship, hope and the way to the place of her dreams. The author's lively illustrations and quirky narrative style make this a thoroughly enjoyable read, dark at times, with a truly ghastly pair of villains, but ultimately filled with light and hope. Clementine brims with hope, she is defiant, smart and self-reliant. A great character for all children to encounter. (Age 7–10)


**compiled by EOIN COLFER illustrated by P.J. LYNCH
ONCE UPON A PLACE**

LITTLE ISLAND BOOKS 2018 (PBK) 224PP €12.00 ISBN 9781910411377

A collection of eleven short stories and six poems by Ireland's top children's writers, perfect to dip in-and-out of, before going to sleep. Each of the stories and poems is based around the theme of place, being set in or inspired by a particular location within Ireland. As a collection, *Once Upon a Place* engages with the deep significance landscape has in Irish stories, featuring tales and legends matched with eerie illustrations perfectly evoking the strangeness of these stories and of the places that have inspired them. (Age 7–12)


**MEG ROSOFF illustrated by GRACE EASTON
GOOD DOG MCTAVISH**

BARRINGTON STOKE 2017 (PBK) 125PP £6.99 ISBN 9781781126837

A dog is for life, not just for Easter, but when Ma Peachy resigns from mum duties to pursue inner peace through yoga, the Peachy family are thrown into chaos. Enter McTavish, a rescue dog with a mission: to adopt the Peachys and iron out their utterly chaotic lives. A heartwarming story, featuring gorgeous illustrations, from dyslexia-specialist publishers Barrington Stoke. Not to be missed by dog-lovers, this mix of laugh-out-loud moments with a lovely moral will also be appreciated by hard-working mums everywhere! (Age 8–12)


**LORENA ALVAREZ
NIGHTLIGHTS**

NOBROW 2019 (PBK) 56PP £8.99 ISBN 9781910620571

Every night, tiny stars appear out of the darkness in Sandy's bedroom. Sandy catches them and creates wonderful creatures to play with until she falls asleep, and in the morning brings them back to life in the whimsical drawings that cover her room. One day, a mysterious pale girl called Morfie appears at school and is fascinated by Sandy's drawings in a way that no one else has been before. But there is a price to pay for this new friendship ... A remarkable, haunting and beautiful graphic novel for younger readers. (Age 9+)


**SOPHIA ANDERSON illustrated by KATHRIN HONESTA
THE GIRL WHO SPEAKS BEAR**

USBOURNE PUBLISHING 2019 (PBK) 416PP £6.99 ISBN 9781474940672

Yanka has always felt like an outsider – found in a bear cave when she was a baby and raised by her foster mother Mamochka, she's always wondered where she came from. But when something very unusual begins to happen to her, it's the push she needs to leave her village on a quest to discover her family, her origins and who she really is. This chapter book is a wonderful adventure, drawing heavily on Russian folk tales to bring us a gripping tale of dragons, bears and magic. Young readers will be gripped. (Age 9+)


**KELLY BARNHILL
THE GIRL WHO DRANK THE MOON**

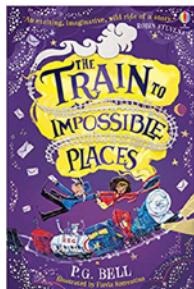
PICCADILLY PRESS 2017 (PBK) 400PP £6.99 ISBN 9781848126473

A young girl grows up unaware of her magical abilities in a world where everything is not as it seems in this engaging and thoughtful feminist fairytale for modern readers. The novel's female characters are bold, brave, villainous, kind, mad and magical, and their portrayal as complex, flawed people is truly refreshing. Barnhill's writing is whimsical and eccentric, with a depth and poignancy often not often found in children's books. The language is accessible enough to appeal to the recommended audience, yet is also sufficiently mature and compelling to set it apart from its competitors. A fantastic read. (Age 9+)


**ALEX BELL
THE POLAR BEAR EXPLORERS' CLUB**

FABER & FABER 2017 (PBK) 352PP £6.99 ISBN 9780571332540

All explorers have three names and Stella Starflake Pearl isn't going to let anyone tell her that girls can't be explorers. No sooner has her adventure begun, however, than things quickly start to go off plan and Stella and three fellow young explorers must use all their wits to overcome Fanged Frosties and Giant Yetis in the coldest place in the world. The first in a welcome new series, this is a fantastically well-crafted adventure full of brilliantly imagined creatures and gripping moments. (Age 9+)



P.G. BELL illustrated by FLAVIA SORRENTINO **THE TRAIN TO IMPOSSIBLE PLACES**

USBOURNE PUBLISHING 2019 (PBK) 384PP £6.99 ISBN 9781474957410

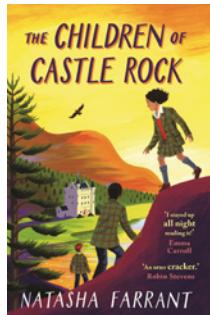
When Suzy hears a strange noise in the middle of the night, she creeps downstairs to find a train roaring through her house. But this is no ordinary train. This is the magical delivery express for the Union of Impossible Places. Whisked on board by a troll-boy, Suzy's world is turned upside down when she's asked to deliver a cursed package to a fearsome sorceress. And quite suddenly, Suzy realises the fate of the Impossible Places is in her hands ... A rip-roaring inventive adventure and the start of a series. (Age 9+)



ABI ELPHINSTONE **THE DREAMSNATCHER**

SIMON & SCHUSTER 2015 (PBK) 288PP £6.99 ISBN 9781471122682

Moll Pecksniff has always been haunted by nightmares. These recurring dreams are getting darker and stronger. It starts to feel like she is being dragged somewhere. But there is more to Moll than she realises. There is a prophecy that indicates she and her wildcat Gryff are the only ones who can fight back against the Dreamsnatcher's dark sorcery. Full of mystery, magic and adventure, heart and above all bravery, this stunning, fast-paced series-opener, is full of rich descriptive passages that bring both characters and setting to life. (Age 9+)



NATASHA FARRANT **THE CHILDREN OF CASTLE ROCK**

FABER & FABER 2018 (PBK) 320PP £6.99 ISBN 9780571323562

Alice is the quiet type, but she can erupt without notice too. Jesse is the sporty type, but even his sportsmanship has its limits when victory is in the balance. Fergus is the joking prankster, but with a very serious and decent core. When the three meet in a delightfully anarchic boarding school in the wilds of Scotland, friendship, betrayal and adventure come knocking. Like all traditional boarding school tales it features midnight meetings, has a great cast of characters, tons of humour, heaps of real danger and a strong emotional heart. (Age 9+)



JENNY McLACHLAN illustrated by BEN MANTLE **THE LAND OF ROAR**

EGMONT PUBLISHING 2019 (PBK) 304PP £6.99 ISBN 9781405293679

When Arthur and Rose were little, they were heroes in the Land of Roar, an imaginary world that they found by climbing through the folding bed in their grandad's attic. Roar was filled with things they loved – dragons, mermaids, ninja wizards and adventure. Now the twins are eleven, Roar is just a memory. But when they help grandad clean out the attic, Arthur is horrified as grandad is pulled into the folding bed and vanishes! A funny, captivating story is filled with the painful pangs of growing up and the transporting qualities of imagination. (Age 9+)

About An Post

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#READERSWANTED

About Children's Books Ireland

Children's Books Ireland's mission is to make books central to every child's life on the island of Ireland. Our small but committed team truly believe that we can make a difference, and we know that the projects we run have a significant impact on the children who take part in them.

At Children's Books Ireland we believe that every child should have access to the joy of reading, regardless of their circumstances. We work with families, teachers, libraries, publishers and communities all across the island to get books into children's hands and to inform adults who can make a big impact on their reading. We advocate for the changes Ireland needs to grow a new generation of readers, and we support artists so that they can make excellent work for children and young people.

Children's Books Ireland,
First Floor,
17 North Great George's Street,
Dublin 1, Ireland, D01 R2F1.

e: info@childrensbooksireland.ie
t: +353 (0)1 872 7475

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books you'll never
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